



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission Announces Metal Art Premiere *Unique metal plates to be displayed at Central Bank Gallery in Lexington*

Frankfort, Ky. (July, 8, 2015) – The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is sponsoring a showing of biodiversity artwork in the John G. Irvin Gallery at Central Bank, 300 West Vine St., Lexington. The premiere is scheduled for Friday, July 10, from 4:30-6 p.m. The images will remain in the Irvin Gallery throughout July.

KSNPC developed the biodiversity art display consisting of 21 aluminum "panels" featuring images of Kentucky's native plants, animals and natural communities. The results of this process are vivid color photographs, which lend a three-dimensional feel to their subjects. The commission's coffee table book, *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity*, is the inspiration for the artwork's creation. The book, which is lavishly illustrated with over 250 photographs, will be available for purchase the night of the premiere.

"The Central Bank gallery is a great opportunity to display these beautiful images. It is especially fitting to be in a Lexington venue, home of the University of Kentucky, where the late Dr. Thomas G. Barnes taught. An artist with a camera, Barnes donated innumerable photographs to the commission to aid its work in educating Kentuckians of the need to protect our biodiversity. We dedicate this showing to Tom in gratitude for the many ephemeral images of nature he preserved with a lens, for Kentuckians and nature lovers everywhere to learn from and enjoy," said Don Dott, director of KSNPC.

For additional information, call 502-573-2886 or visit the KSNPC website at <http://naturepreserves.ky.gov>.

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